

Remarks

The specification has been amended to replace Appendices A-C with Tables A-C, which form part of the specification proper rather than separate appendices.

Claim 1 has been amended so as to be directed to “apparatus” for retrieving data from a selected one of a plurality of databases “in a system in which a hypertext requests are issued from a client side to a server side”. As further amended, the plurality of browser components are located “on said server side”, while the hypertext request is received “at a location on said server side that is common to said databases” from a requester “on said client side”. Finally, claim 1 has been amended to recite that in response to receiving such request, the request is directed “from said common location” to the browser component corresponding to the database to permit the browser component to retrieve the data specified in the request.

Claim 3 has been amended to agree with the referencing language used in claim 2.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend on claim 6, which contains an antecedent for “said browser-specific portion” in claim 7.

Method claims 12 and 15 and program storage device claims 20 and 23 have been amended in a manner corresponding to that of apparatus claims 1 and 7. Finally, method claim 14 has been corrected to depend on claim 12.

New claim 28, dependent on claim 1, recites the further presence of means for sending a response back to the requester “from said common location”. New claims 29 and 30 are similar in tenor, but depend on claims 12 and 20, respectively.

Claims 1-27 as amended and new claims 28-30 are believed to distinguish patentably over the art cited by the Examiner, in particular the Andersen publication (Pub. No. US 2002/0087667) cited as a primary reference. In applicant’s claimed invention, a client-side request is received at a server-side location (MP-WEB servlet 208) that is common to the various databases. From that

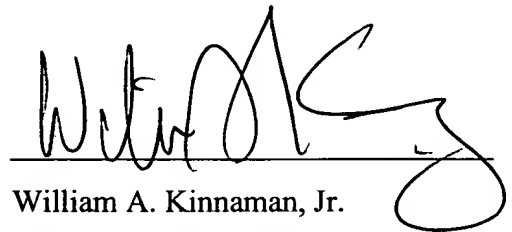
common server-side location, the request is directed to a corresponding browser component (212, 214, or 216) to permit it to retrieve the data specified in the request. In Andersen, on the other hand, client-side requests are received at server locations 14 and 16 (Fig. 5) that are specific to the various databases. The contrast could not be clearer. With respect to applicant's claim language as amended, Andersen does not receive a client request at a server-side location that is common to the databases being accessed, nor does that common server-side location direct the request to a browser component corresponding to the database being accessed.

Accordingly, Andersen does not anticipate the subject matter of claims 1-5, 7, 12-13, 15 and 20-23 as amended. Nor, given its failure as a primary reference, does it render obvious the subject matter of claims 6, 8-11, 14, 16-19 and 24-27 as amended or new claims 28-30.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. It is hoped that upon such consideration, the Examiner hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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